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Reference	IOR/R/15/2/361
Title	'File 9/13 Kuwait/Haifa, Kuwait/Riyadh motor route'
Date(s)	5 Feb 1937-9 Sep 1938 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 file (18 folios)
Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Copyright for document	<u>Unknown</u>

About this record

The file contains correspondence sent and received by the Political Agent at Bahrain concerning commercial motor routes between Kuwait/Haifa, Kuwait/Riyadh, proposed by the Kuwait Oil Company to link Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Palestine as an alternative route to the main route via Baghdad.

On folios 9-17 there are envelopes containing two copies of a 'Sketch map showing Motor Road from Kuwait to Riyadh', both of which consist of three sheets.



File No. 9/13
1937 :
Collection No. ①

CONFIDENTIAL

Political Agency
Bahrain
Persian Gulf.

Pros. Nos.
Serial

TRADE AND COMMERCE

9/13
KUWAIT-HAIFA, KUWAIT-RIYADH MOTOR ROUTE
RIYADH.

Previous References.
— NIL —

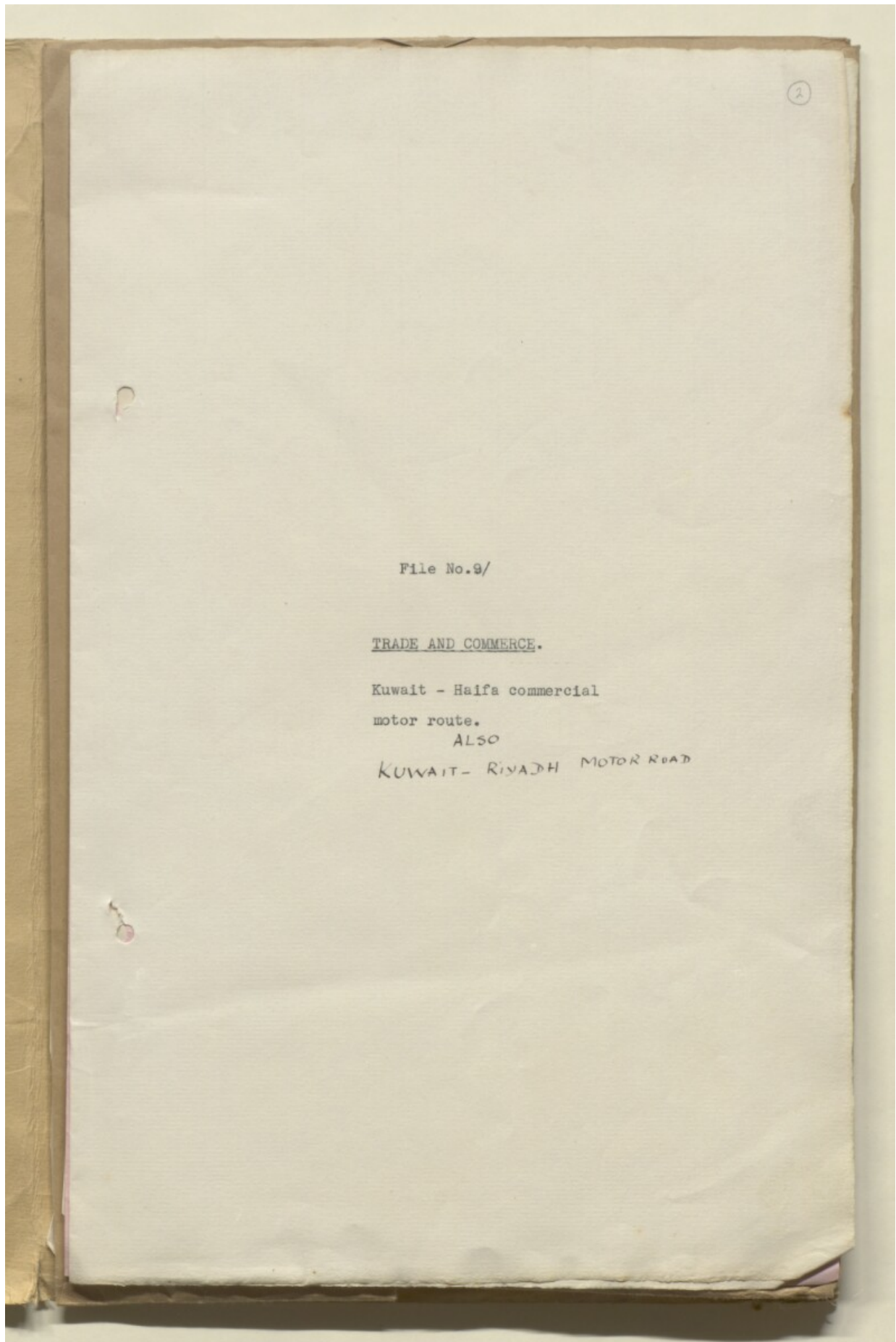
Later References.

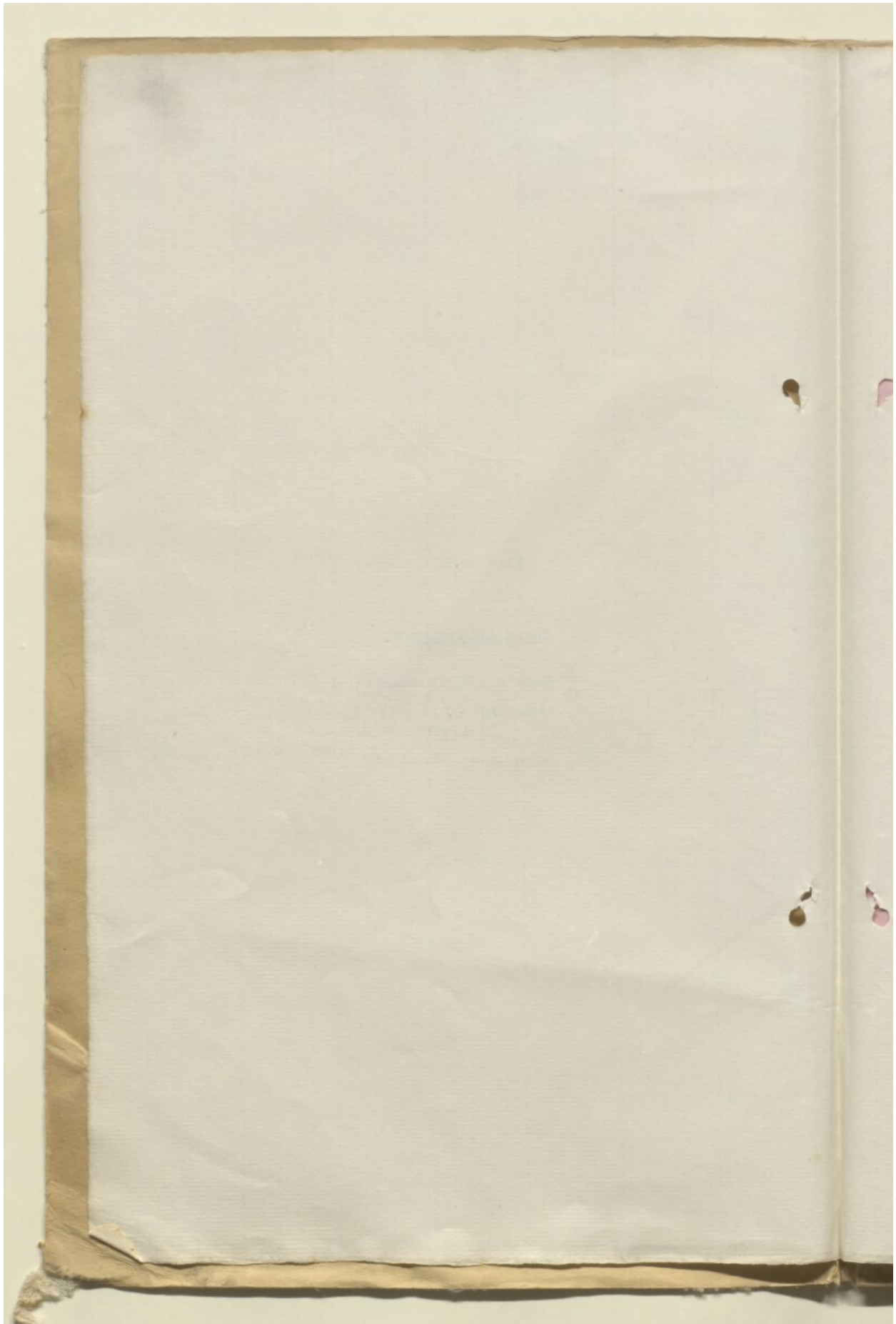
361
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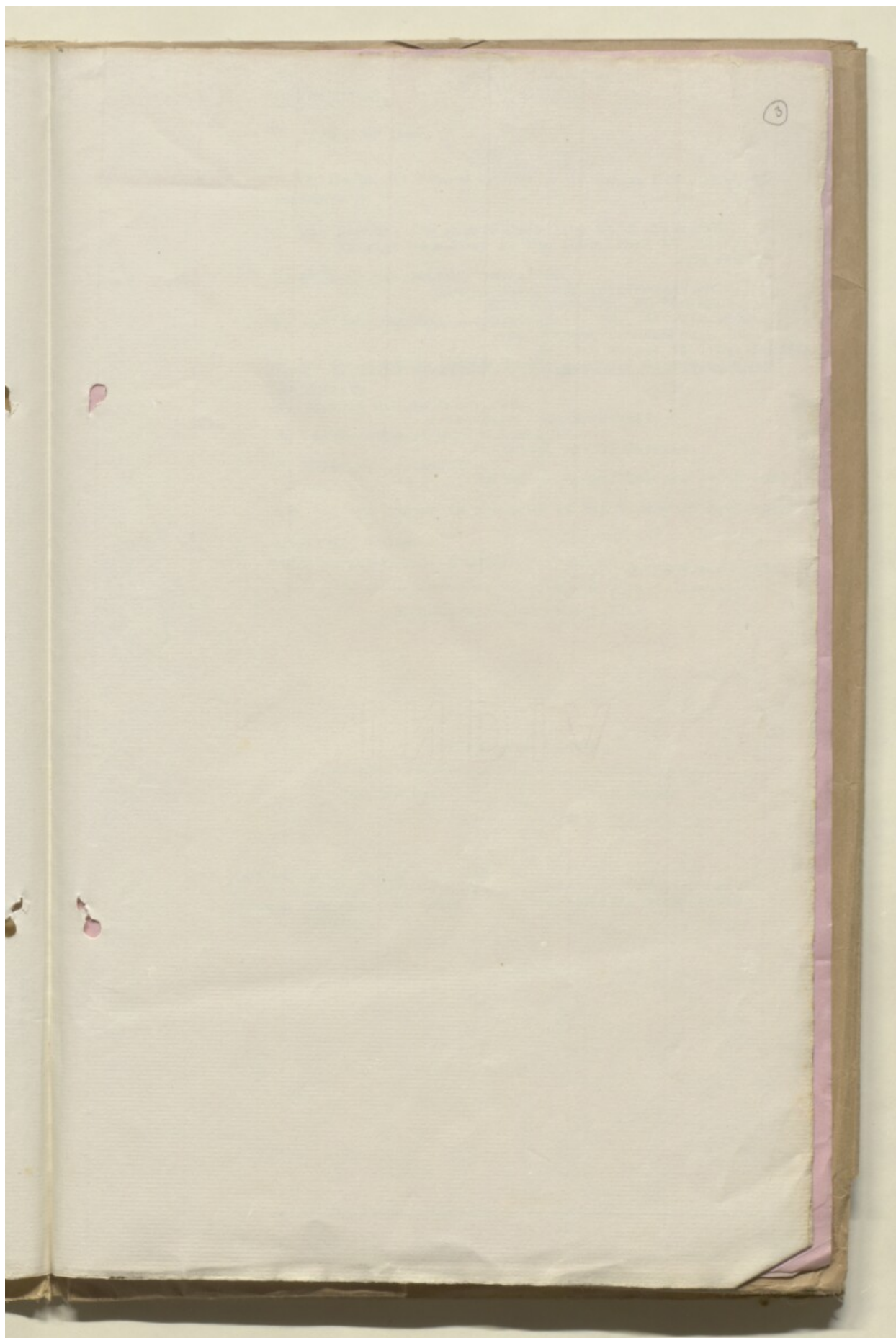
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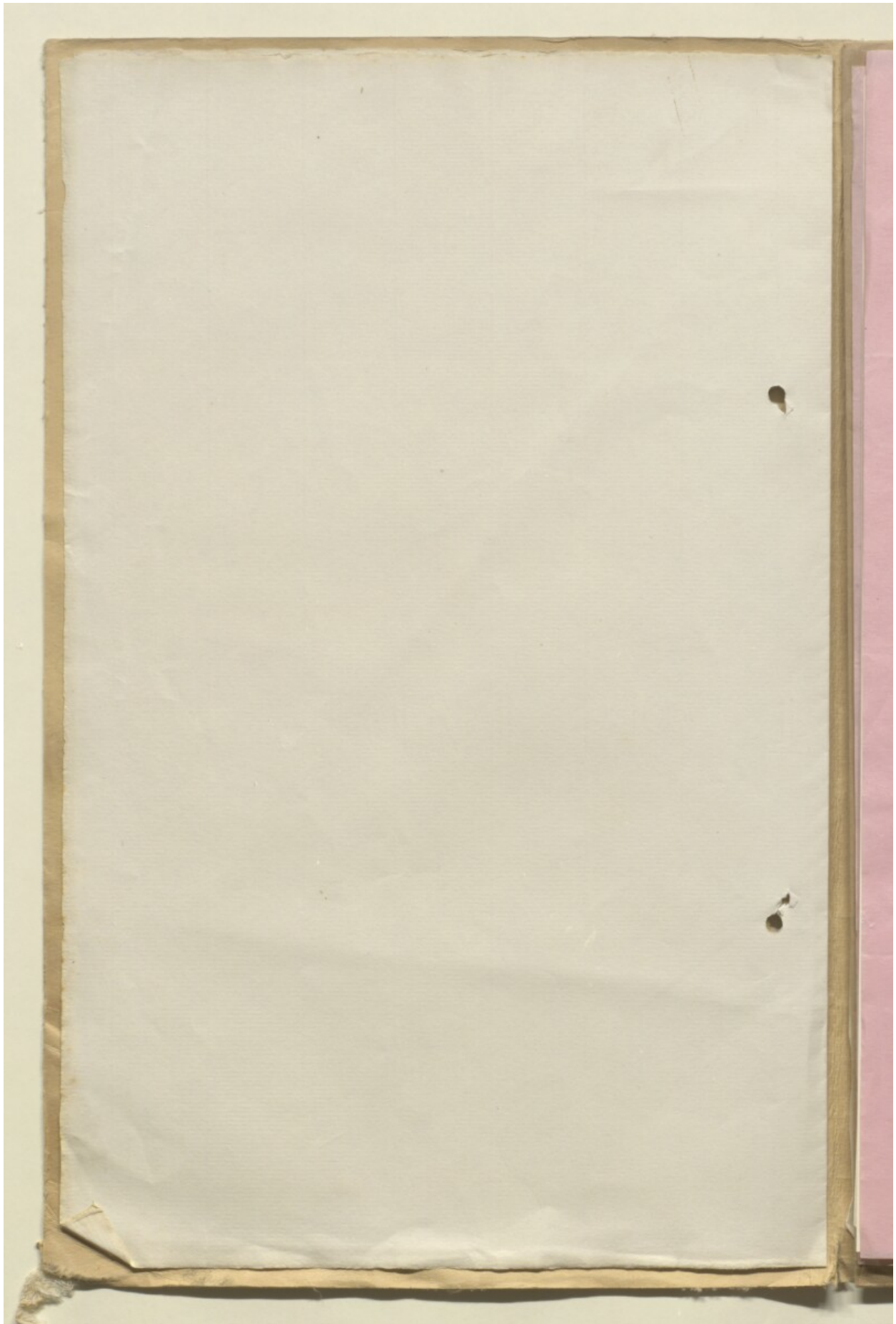
9/13













CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 176-S of 1937.



The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf presents his compliments to

1. The Hon'ble Sir Aubrey Metcalfe, KCIE., CSI., MVO.,
Foreign Secretary to the Government of India,
New Delhi.
 2. Captain V.S. Butler, DSO., ADC.,
Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf,
H.M.S. Shoreham, at Bombay.
 3. Air Vice Marshal W.G.S. Mitchell, CB., CBE., DSO., MC,
Air Officer Commanding,
British Forces in Iraq, Hinaidi.
- and has the honour to transmit to him a copy of the undermentioned documents (5).

4. Captain G.S. de Saury, MC.,
Political Agent, Kuwait.
5. Lieut.-Colonel Gordon Leach, CBE.,
Political Agent, Bahrain.
6. Major R.F. Watts, IA.,
Political Agent, Muscat, at Karachi

and has the honour to transmit to him a copy of the under-mentioned document.

British Consulate-General, BUSHIRE.

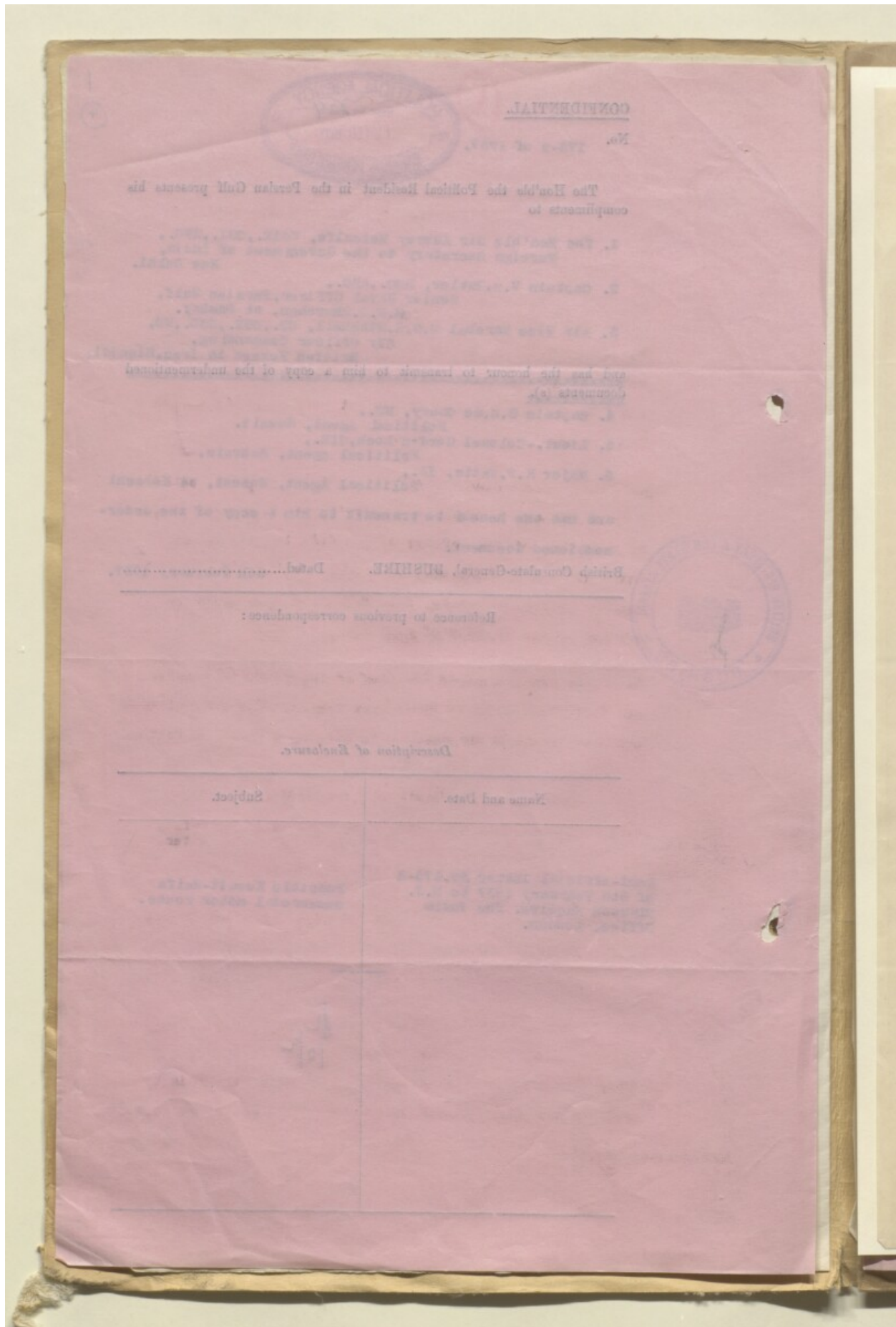
Dated....5th February 1937.



Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Demi-official letter No.176-S of 5th February 1937 to H.J. Clauson Require, The India Office, London.	Possible Kuwait-Haifa commercial motor route.
	h 10/2





Secret.

The Residency,

Bushire, the 5th February 1937.

D.O.No.175-S.

Could you please refer to India Office endorsement No. P.Z.9098/36 on letter No.CF/676/36 of the 19th November 1936 from the Secretariat, High Commission for Palestine, to the Colonial Office, on the subject of a possible Kuwait - Haifa commercial motor route.

2. For the reasons given in paragraph 6 et seq below I think perhaps it might be convenient to link this subject up with that of the defence of the Gulf in time of war, dealt with in my demi-official letter No.82-S of the 18th January 1937 to Metcalfe, copy sent to Walton under my Printed letter No.83-S of same date.

3. As you are aware the idea of the route in question was first raised by de Gaury last Summer. His general idea was that it might be possible to open up a route as follows:

Kuwait.

Hafr-al-Batin, Saudi Arab frontier fort. Water.

Umm-ar-Radhumma, Saudi Arab fort is being built. Water.

Lina, Saudi Arab fort is being built. Water.

Birkat-ash-Shaihiya. Water. Junction with the Nejef-Hail "pilgrim" route.

Hazoul. Water.

Jauf, Saudi Arab provincial centre, wireless, water etc.

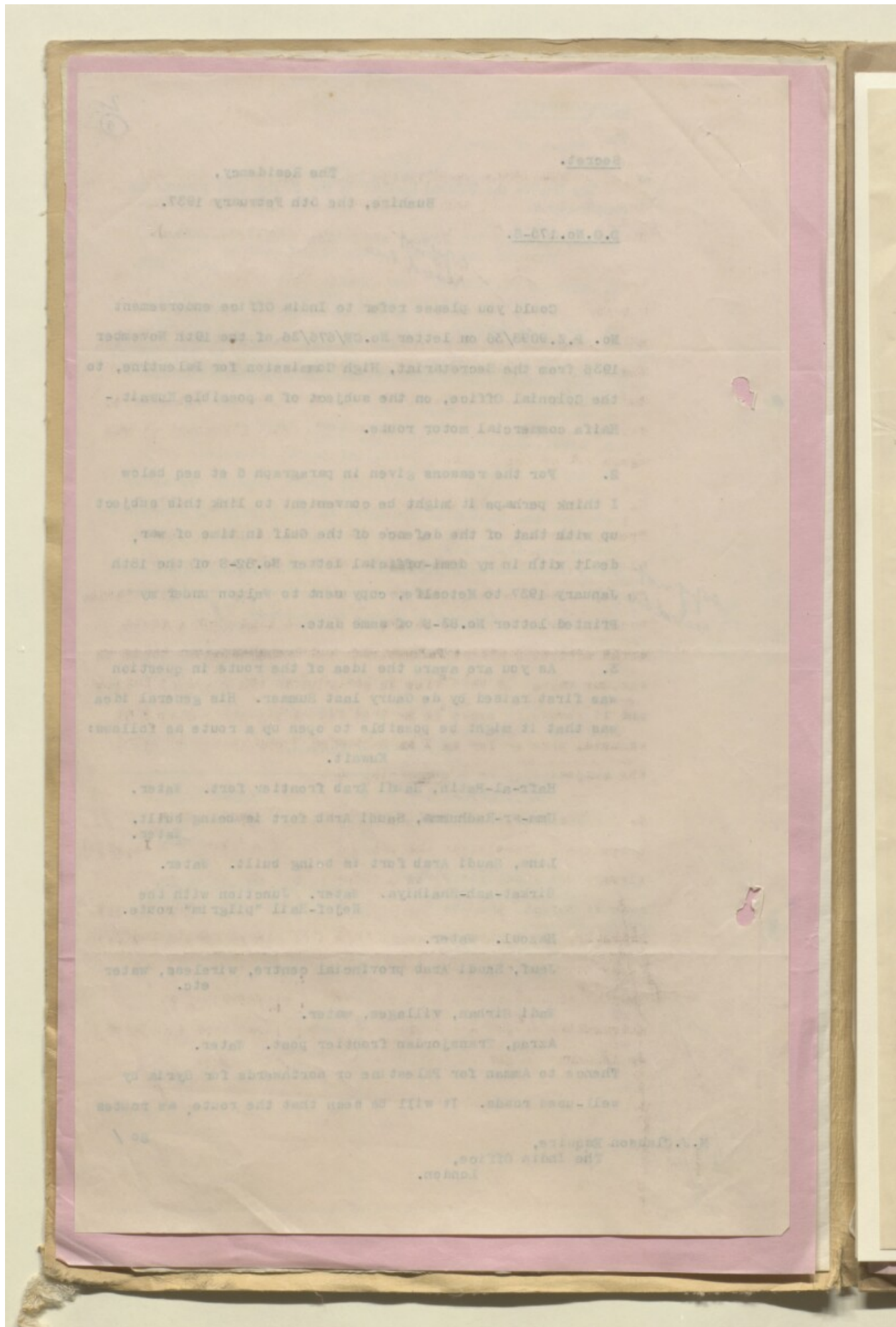
Wadi Sirhan, villages, water.

Azraq, Transjordan frontier post. Water.

Thence to Amman for Palestine or northwards for Syria by well-used roads. It will be seen that the route, as routes

M.J.Clauson Esquire,
The India Office,
London.

go /





-2-

3
6

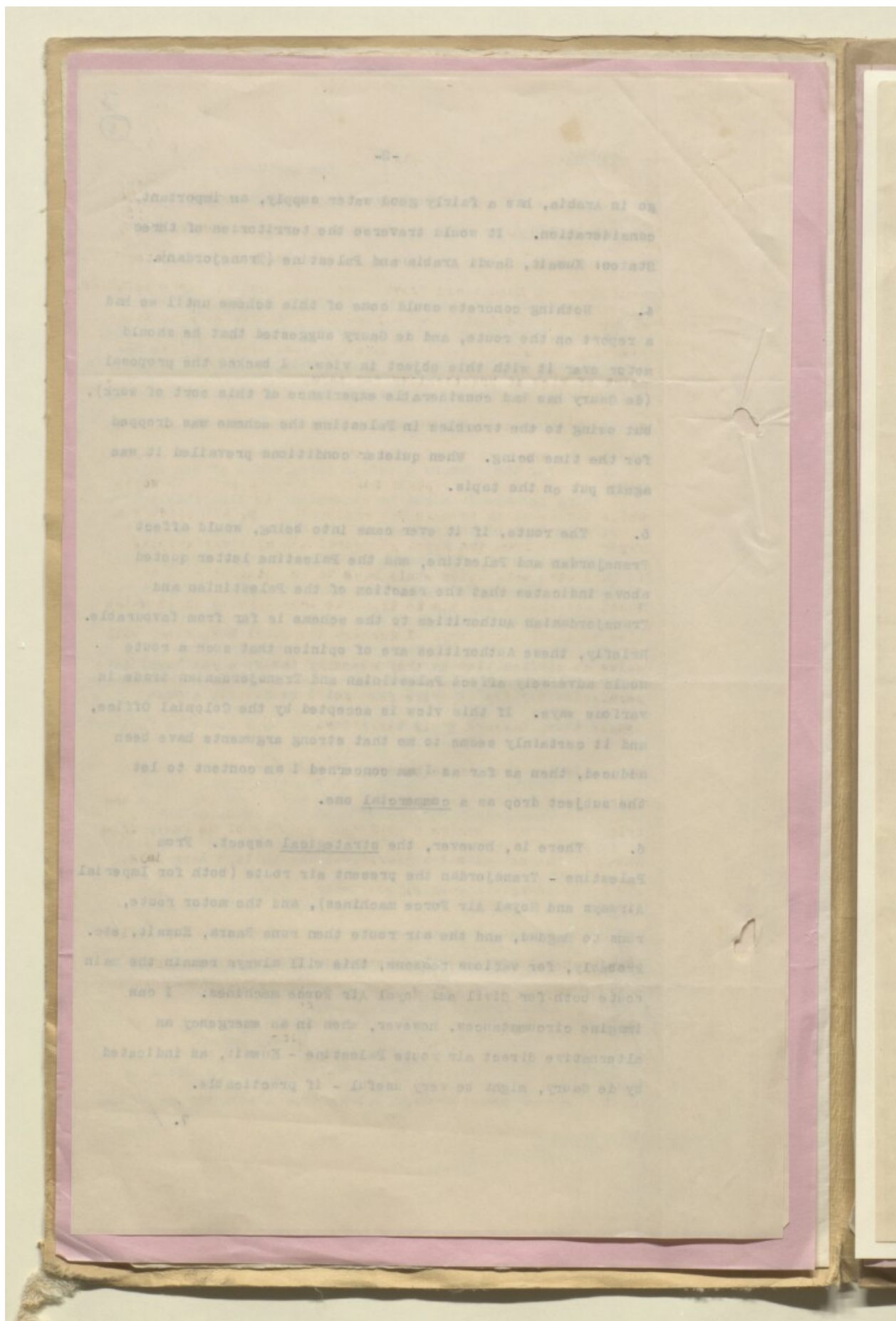
go in Arabia, has a fairly good water supply, an important consideration. It would traverse the territories of three States: Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Palestine (Transjordan).

4. Nothing concrete could come of this scheme until we had a report on the route, and de Gaury suggested that he should motor over it with this object in view. I backed the proposal (de Gaury has had considerable experience of this sort of work), but owing to the troubles in Palestine the scheme was dropped for the time being. When quieter conditions prevailed it was again put on the tapis.

5. The route, if it ever came into being, would affect Transjordan and Palestine, and the Palestine letter quoted above indicates that the reaction of the Palestinian and Transjordanian Authorities to the scheme is far from favourable. Briefly, these Authorities are of opinion that such a route would adversely affect Palestinian and Transjordanian trade in various ways. If this view is accepted by the Colonial Office, and it certainly seems to me that strong arguments have been adduced, then as far as I am concerned I am content to let the subject drop as a commercial one.

6. There is, however, the strategical aspect. From Palestine - Transjordan the present air route (both for Imperial Airways and Royal Air Force machines), and the motor route, runs to Bagdad, and the air route then runs Basra, Kuwait, etc. Probably, for various reasons, this will always remain the main route both for Civil and Royal Air Force machines. I can imagine circumstances, however, when in an emergency an alternative direct air route Palestine - Kuwait, as indicated by de Gaury, might be very useful - if practicable.

7. /





-3-

7. Further, I can also imagine circumstances when the use of such a route, or part of it, by a mechanized force, might be desirable. Royal Air Force armoured cars have operated both from the Kuwait and Transjordan ends, and so these sections of the route are doubtless well-known. As far as I am aware, however, the middle sections have not been explored from the point of view of practicality for cars.

8. If therefore the Royal Air Force Authorities, who are the people most concerned, are interested from the strategical point of view in the proposed route, it would still be worth while for de Gaury to make his suggested trip, and produce a report on it from the Royal Air Force and military aspect. In this case permission would have to be obtained from the Saudi Government for him to traverse that portion of it which lies in Saudi territory. I daresay the Saudi Government will raise no difficulties as they recently (about a year ago) gave permission for him to drive from Jedda to Kuwait, a much longer tour, through their territory.

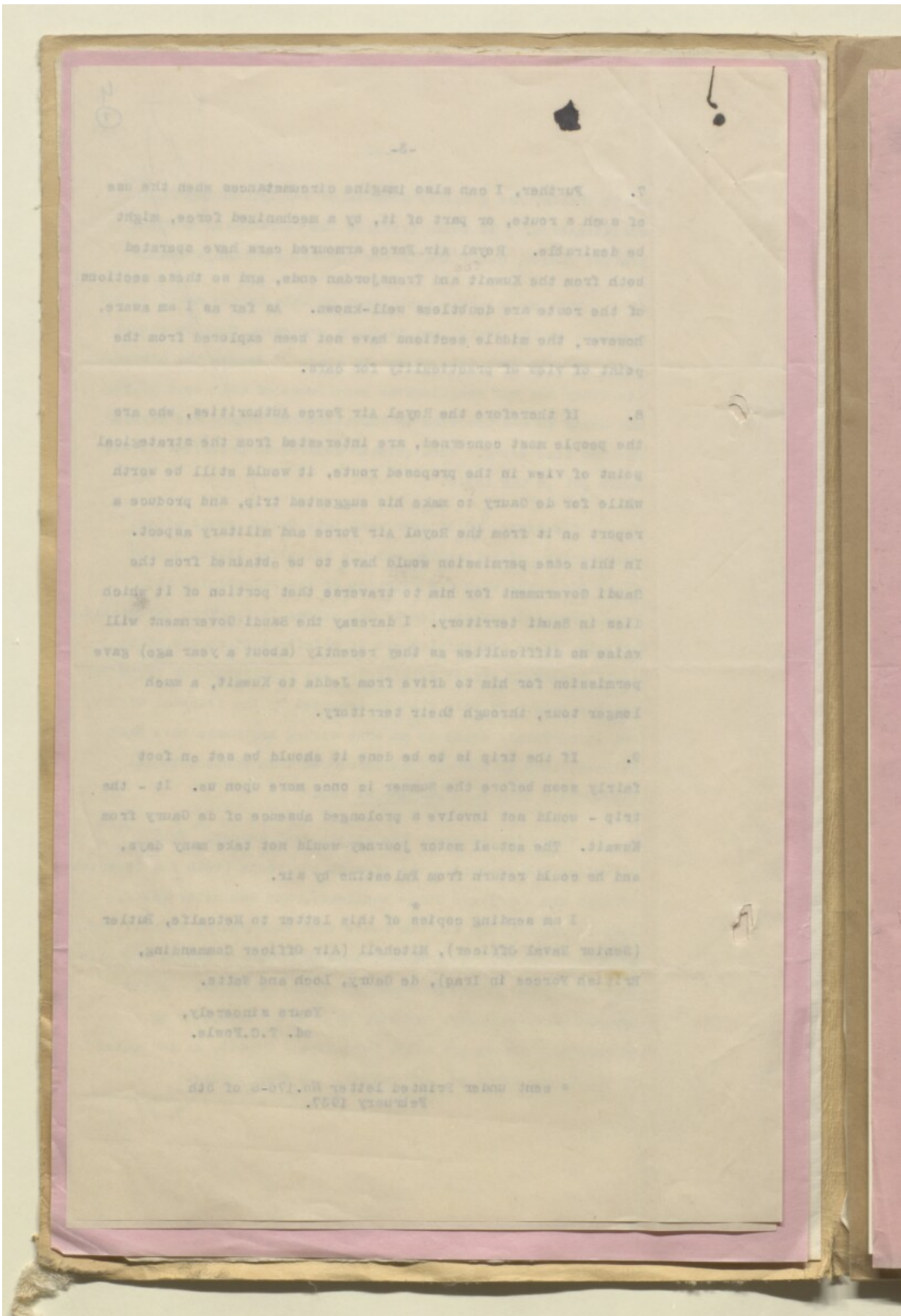
9. If the trip is to be done it should be set on foot fairly soon before the Summer is once more upon us. It - the trip - would not involve a prolonged absence of de Gaury from Kuwait. The actual motor journey would not take many days, and he could return from Palestine by air.

*

I am sending copies of this letter to Metcalfe, Butler (Senior Naval Officer), Mitchell (Air Officer Commanding, British Forces in Iraq), de Gaury, Loch and Watts.

Yours sincerely,
ed. T.C.Fowle.

* sent under Printed letter No.176-S of 5th
February 1937.





CONFIDENTIAL.

No. Q/631 of 1938.

*1.R.1198
17.9.38*

5 (3)

The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf presents his compliments to

1. The Political Agent, Kuwait.
- ✓ 2. The Political Agent, Bahrain.

and has the honour to transmit to him a copy of the undermentioned document ~~xxxx~~

*14.
1579.*

Office of the Political Resident
in the Persian Gulf,
Camp, Karachi.

~~British Consulate General, BUSHIRE~~

Dated... 9th September, 1938.

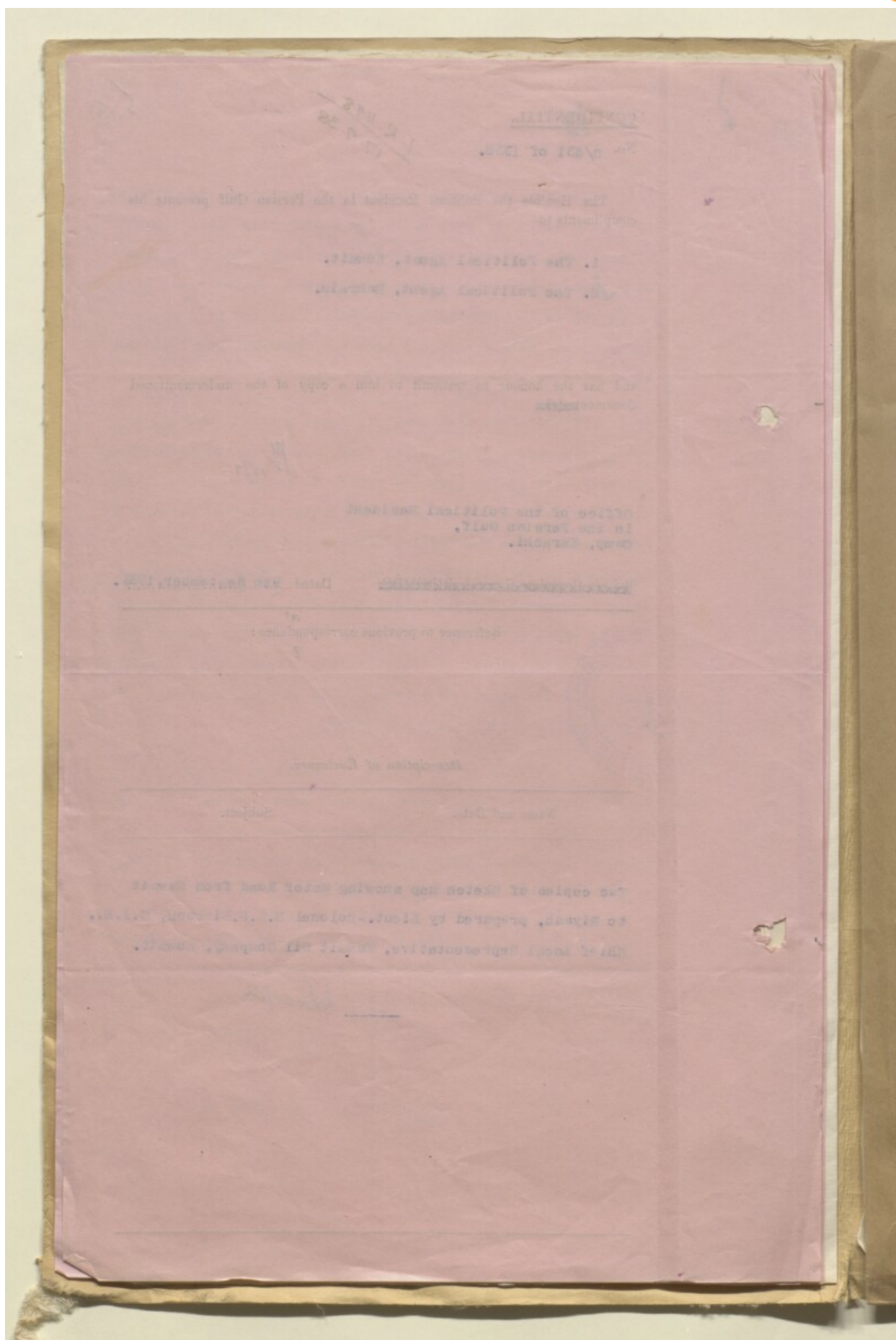
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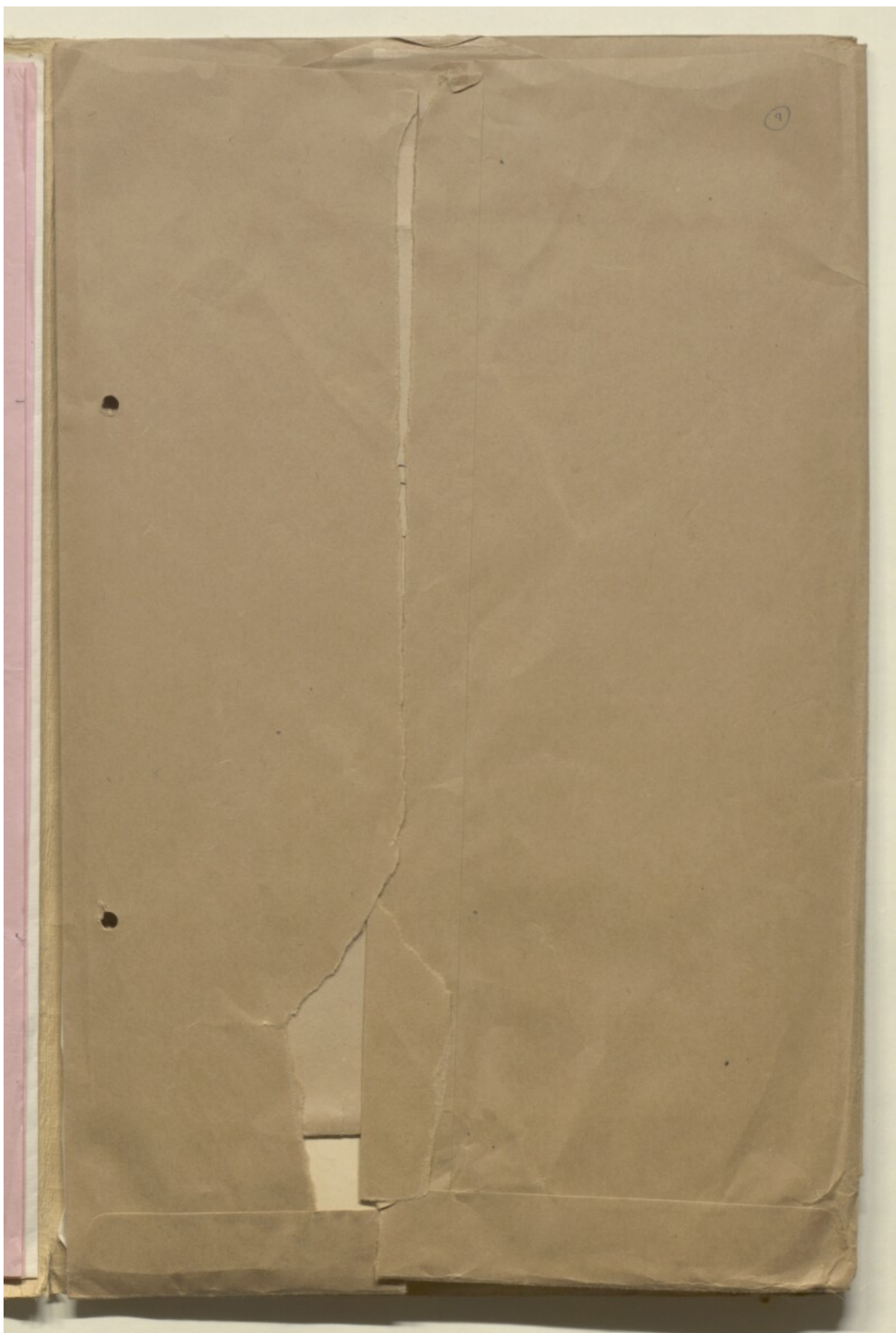
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Description of Enclosure.

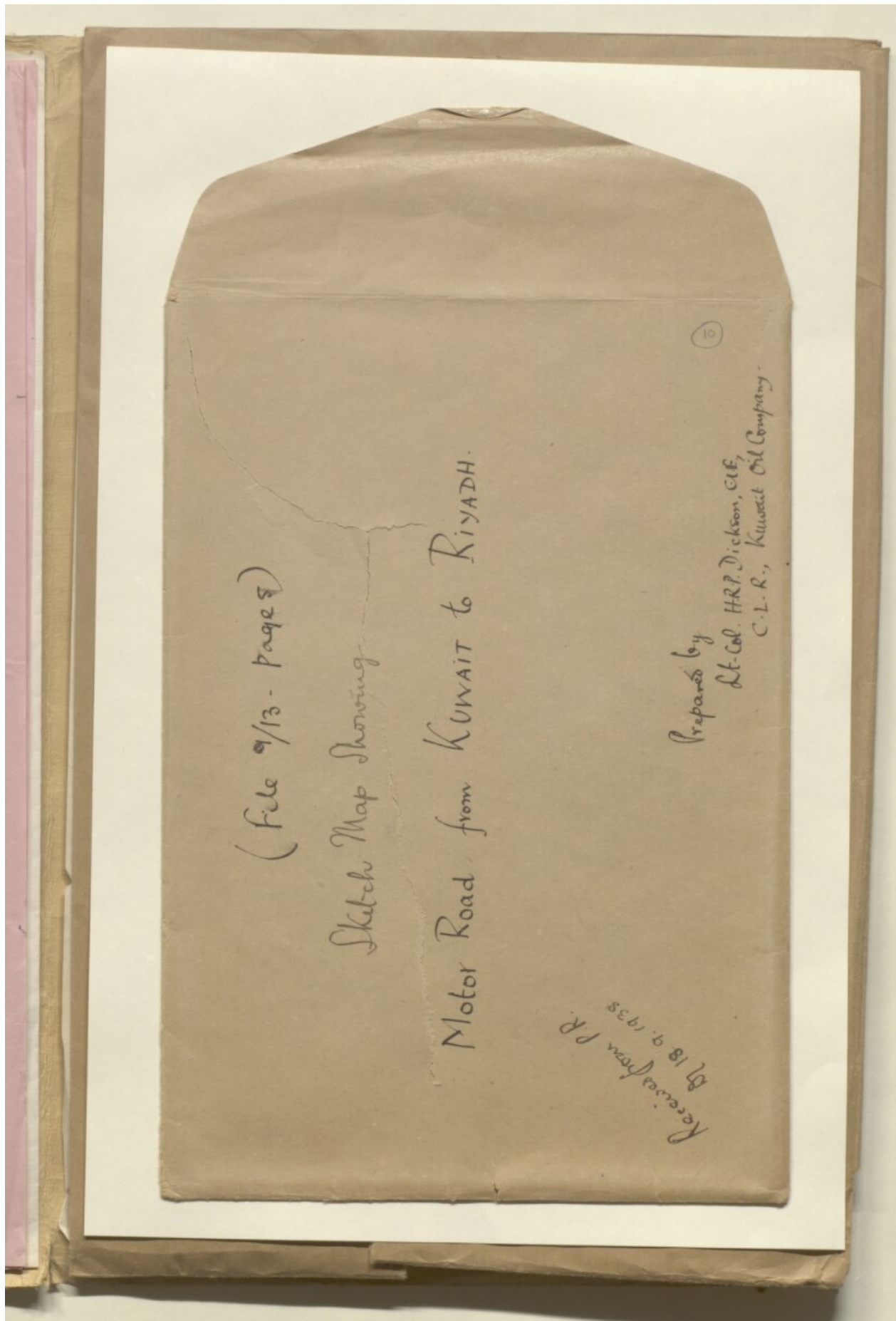
Name and Date.	Subject.
Two copies of Sketch map showing Motor Road from Kuwait to Riyadh, prepared by Lieut.-Colonel H.R.P. Dickson, C.I.E., Chief Local Representative, Kuwait Oil Company, Kuwait.	
<i>Colonel Dickson</i>	







On His Britannic Majesty's Service

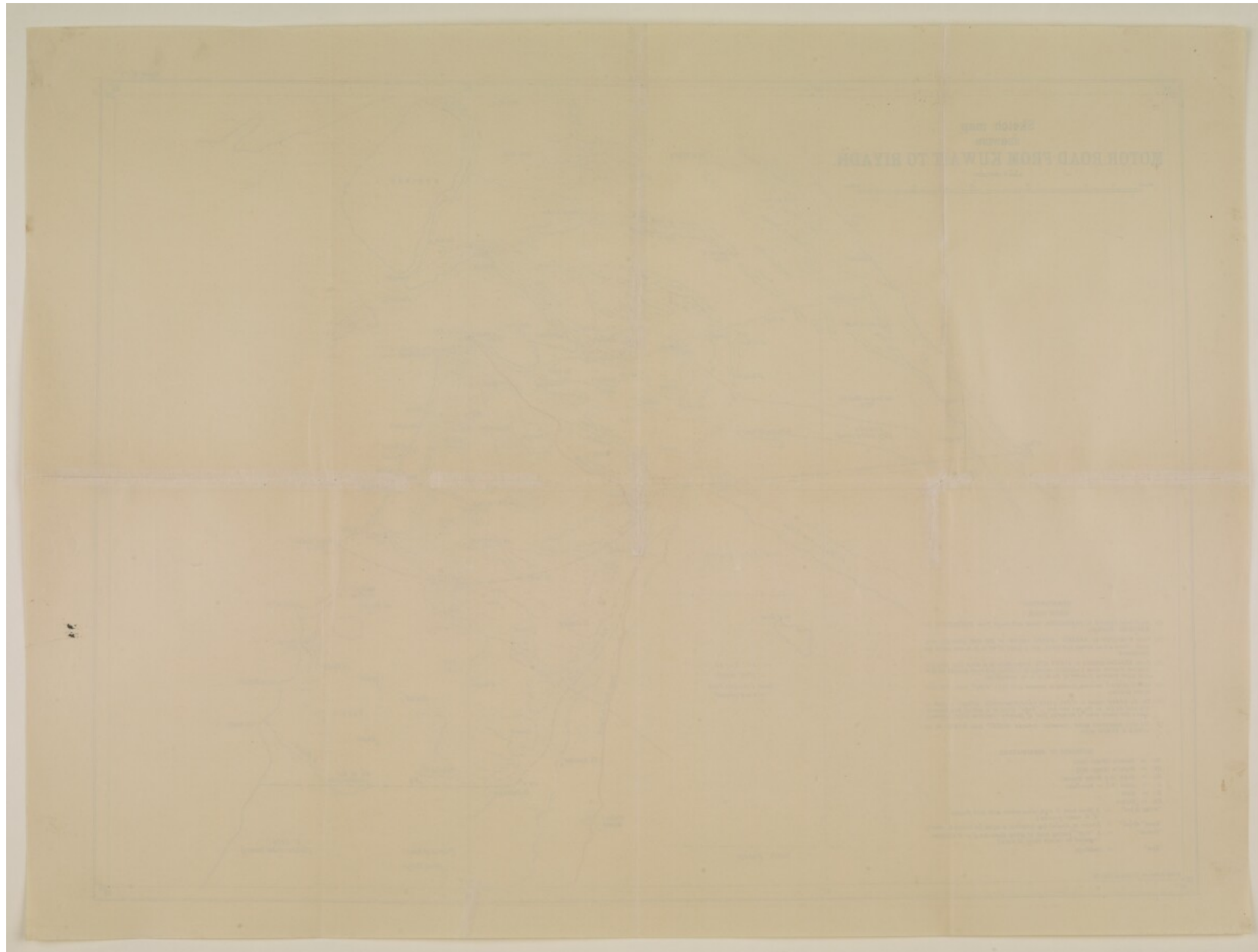








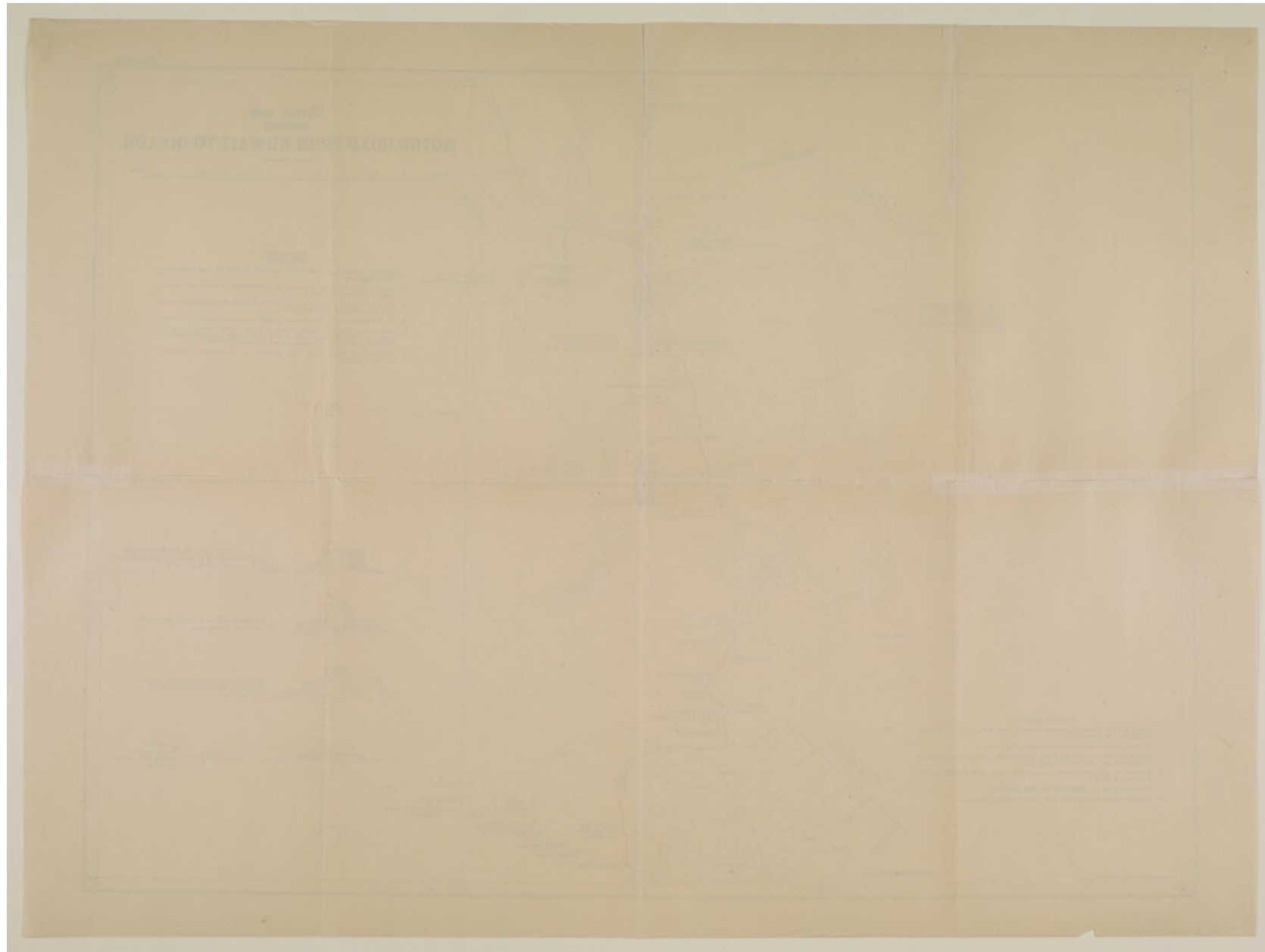
'Sketch map showing Motor Road from Kuwait to Riyadh' [11v] (4/8)







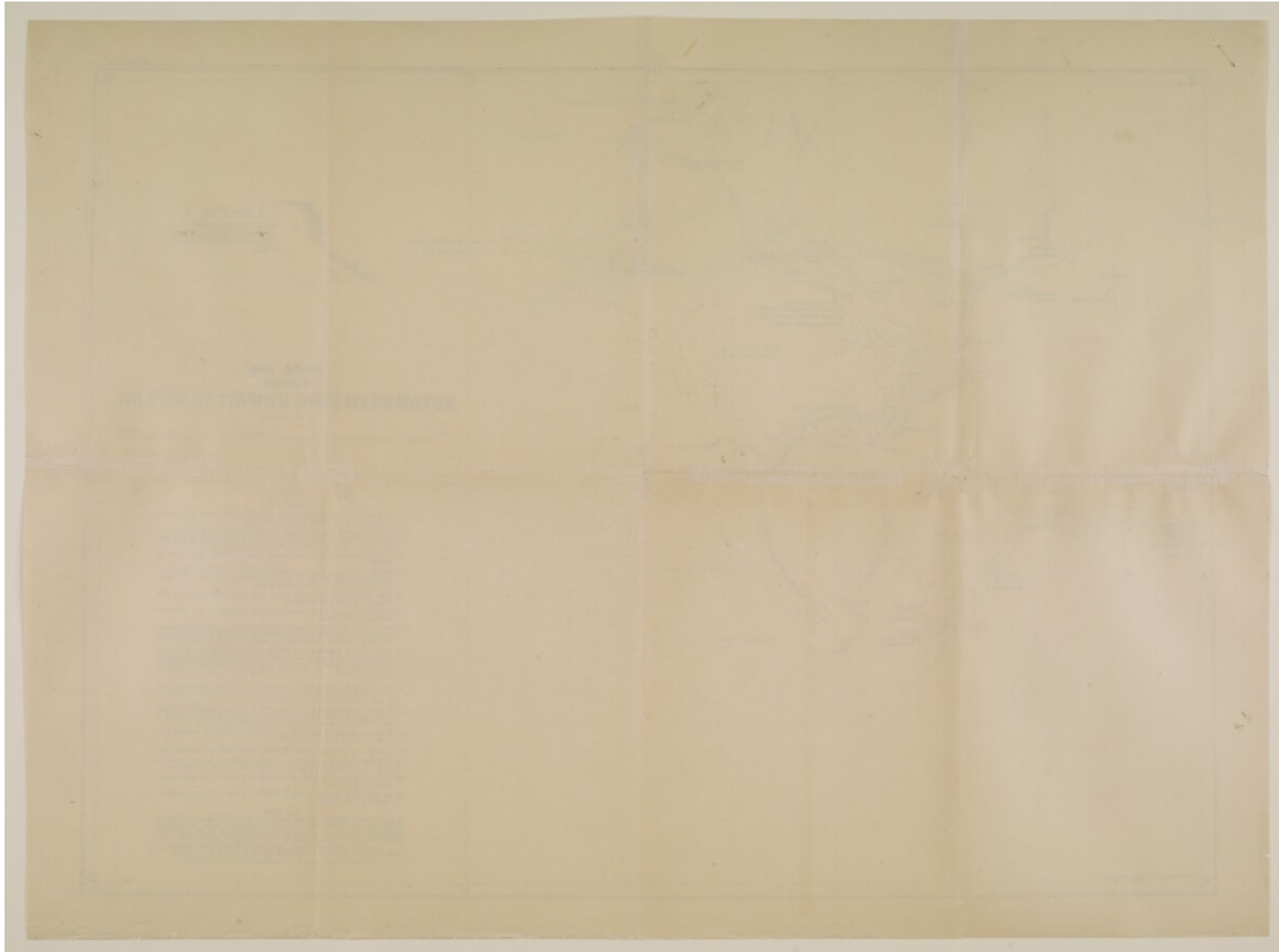
'Sketch map showing Motor Road from Kuwait to Riyadh' [12v] (6/8)

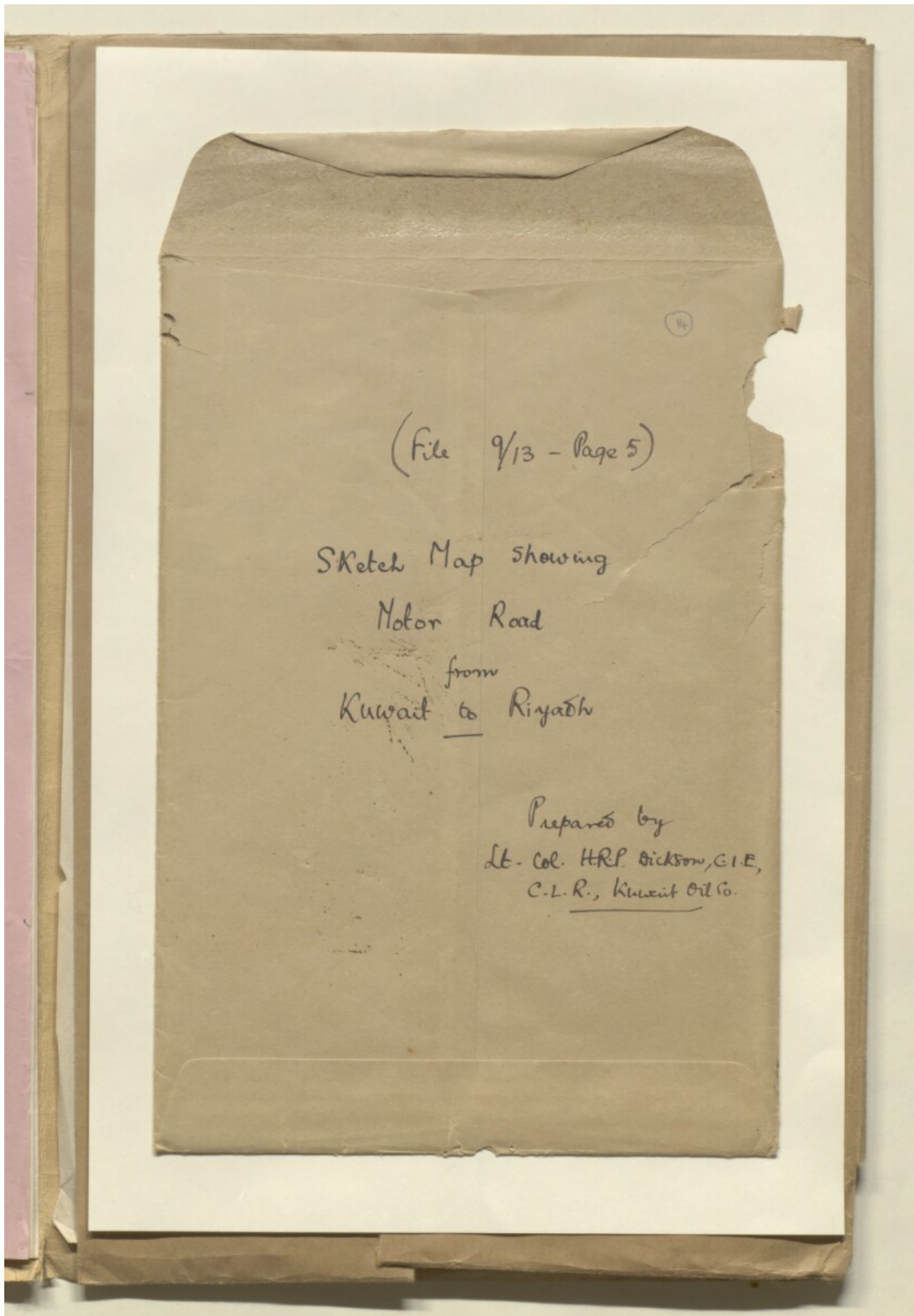






'Sketch map showing Motor Road from Kuwait to Riyadh' [13v] (8/8)



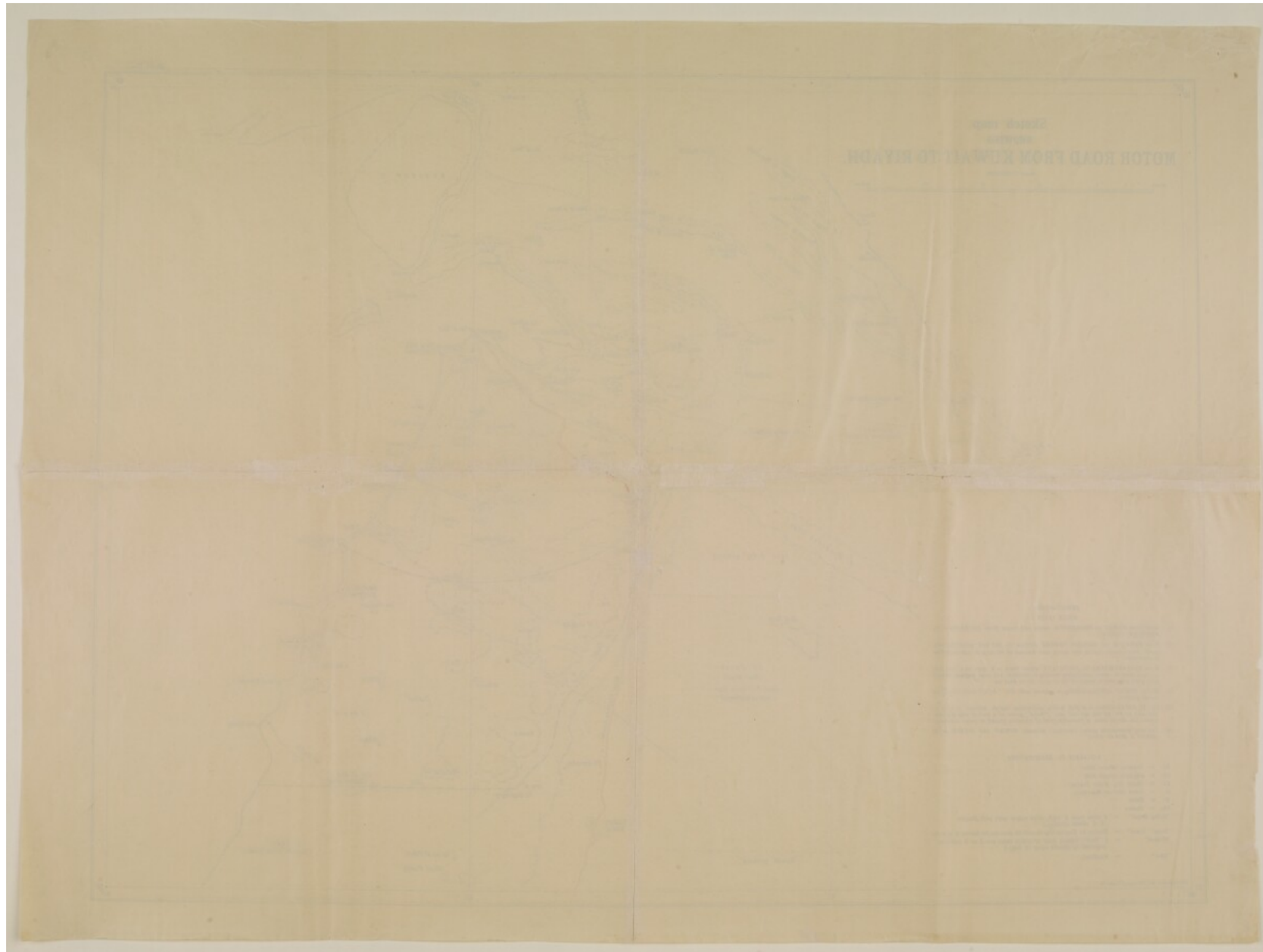






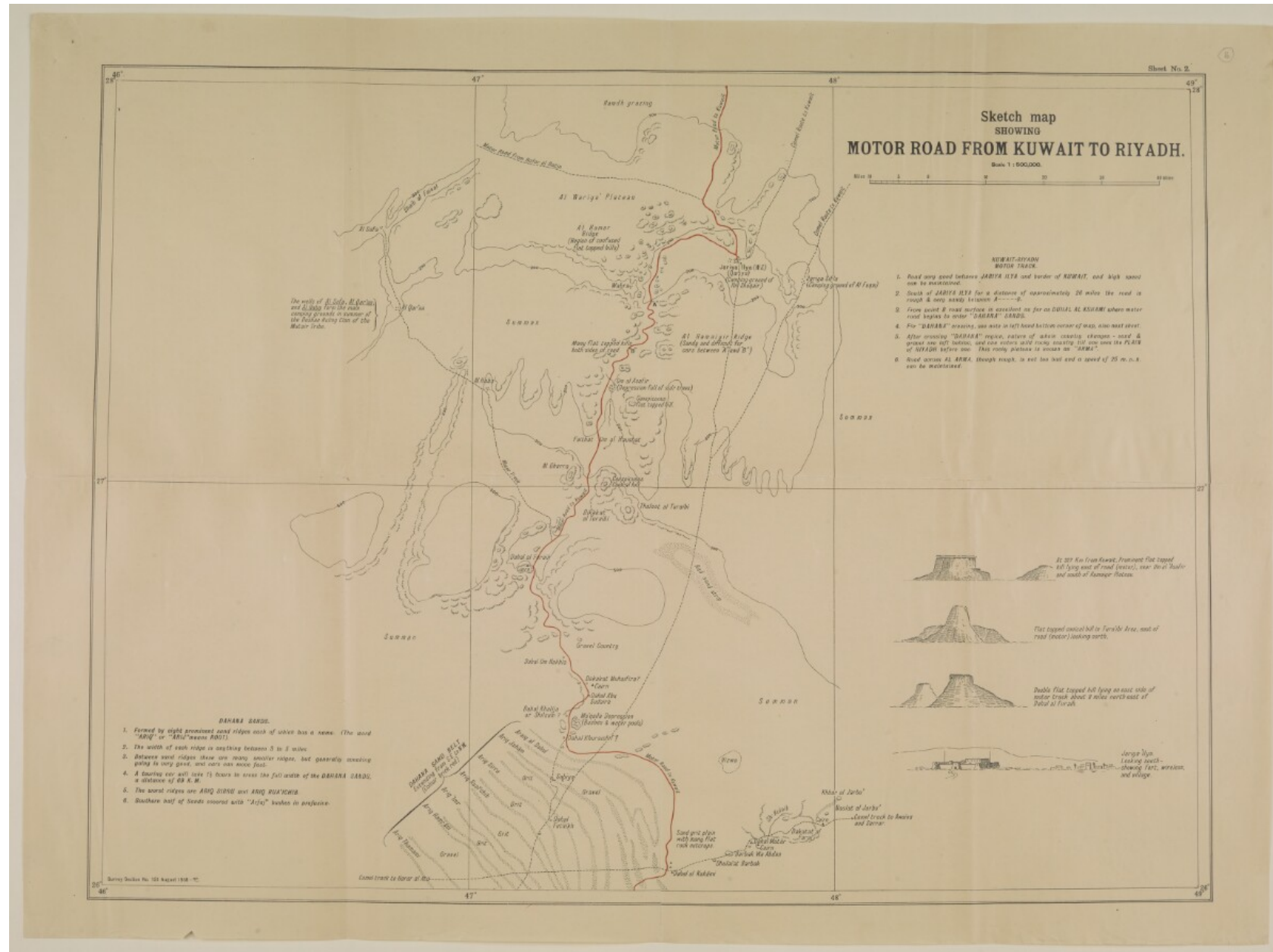


'Sketch map showing Motor Road from Kuwait to Riyadh' [15v] (4/8)



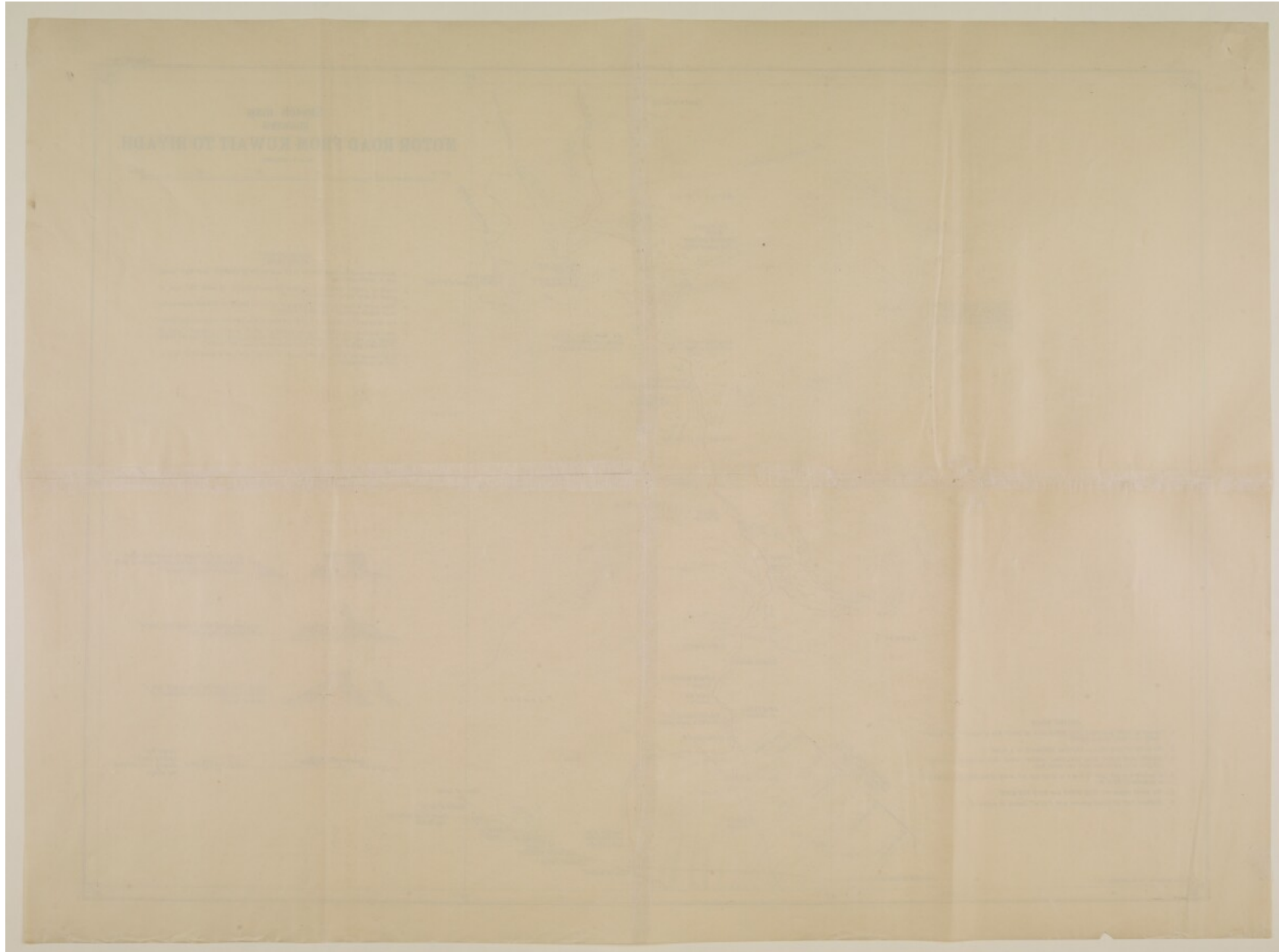


'Sketch map showing Motor Road from Kuwait to Riyadh' [16r] (5/8)





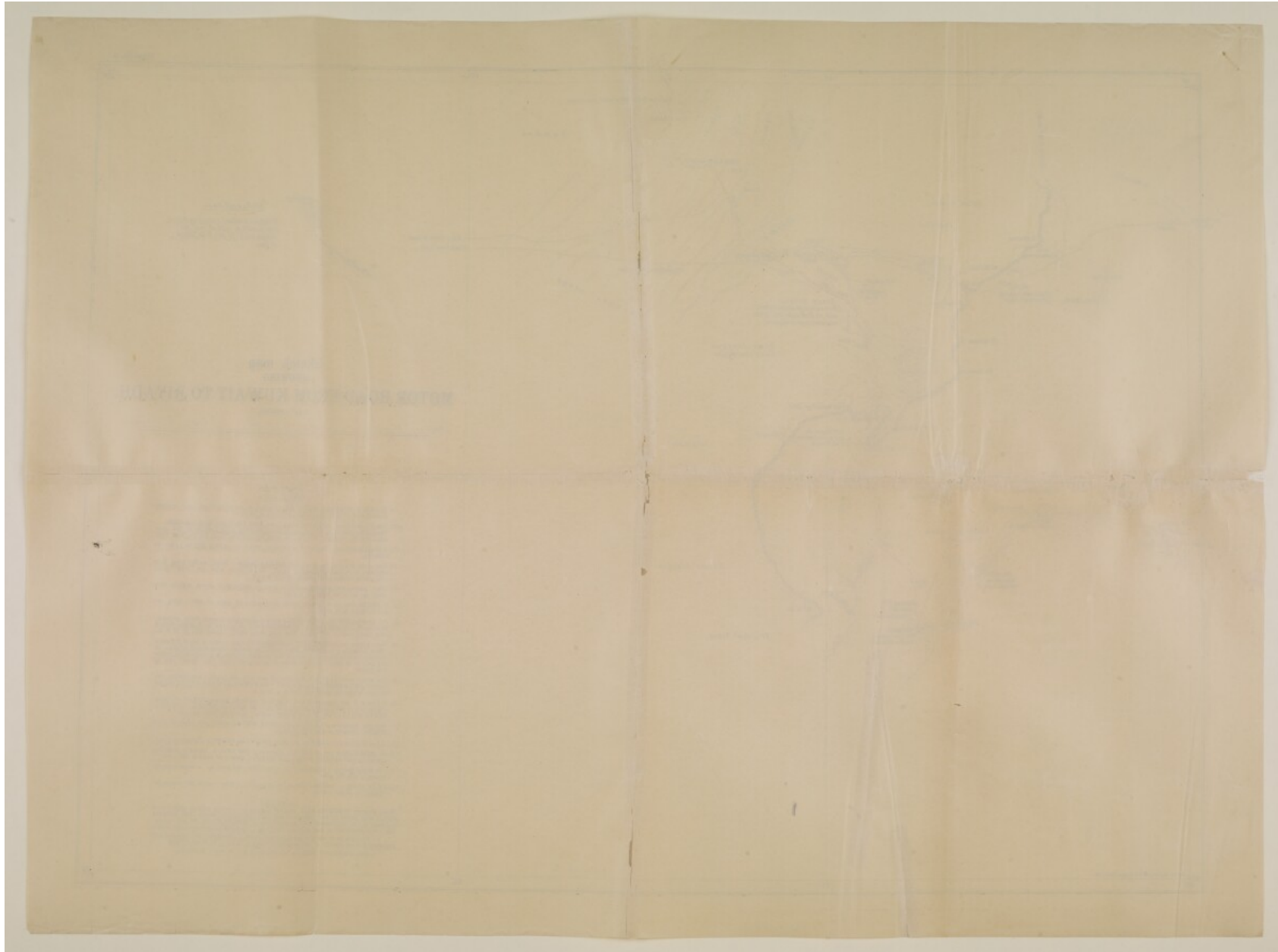
'Sketch map showing Motor Road from Kuwait to Riyadh' [16v] (6/8)







'Sketch map showing Motor Road from Kuwait to Riyadh' [17v] (8/8)





1. Resident's P.L. No. 176-S dated 5th February 1937.

14/2 *to P.R.*

(15)

P.A. File.

My Father proposed something
rather similar in connection with
railways in 1890.

Q
18.2.37

h5 *P.R.'s P.L. No. 4631 of 9.9.38*

I presume the sketch maps
are with you. The p.u.c. may be filed?

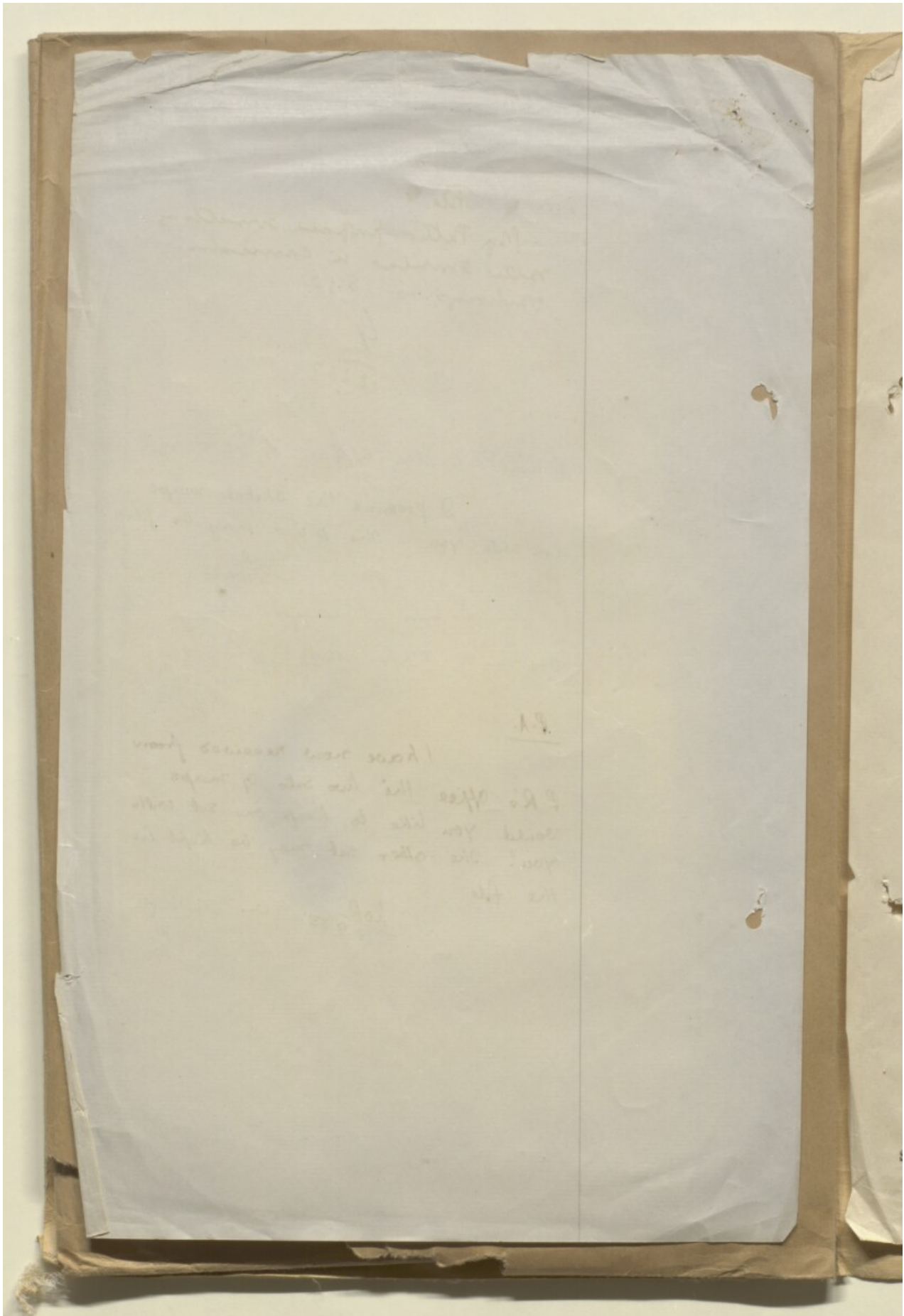
Koh.
17.9.38

No. I have not received them. Check
this with P.R.'s staff. *ju.*
17/9.

P.A.

I have now received from
P.R.'s Office the two sets of maps.
Would you like to keep one set with
you? The other set may be kept in
the file.

Koh.
18.9.38 One copy kept.
ju.
19/9.





Section. Confidential

Heading. TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Serial No.

DEPT. BRANCH.

Pros. 19 . Nos.

Subject.

Kuwait - Haifa commercial motor route .

Notes and Orders.

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